

(C) (1) THE COSTS OF THE PROGRAMS UNDER ~~§ 3A-503~~ § 3A-504(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE AND § 3A-602(A) OF THIS TITLE SHALL BE FUNDED BY REVENUES GENERATED BY A SURCHARGE TO BE PAID BY THE SUBSCRIBERS TO SWITCHED LOCAL EXCHANGE ACCESS SERVICE AND BY OTHER FUNDS AS THE BUDGET MAY PROVIDE.

(2) THE SURCHARGE MAY NOT EXCEED 45 CENTS PER MONTH AND SHALL BE APPLIED TO ALL CURRENT BILLS RENDERED FOR SWITCHED LOCAL EXCHANGE ACCESS SERVICE IN THE STATE. THE SURCHARGE IS PAYABLE AT THE TIME THE BILLS FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE ARE DUE.

(D) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL ANNUALLY CERTIFY TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION THE COSTS OF THE PROGRAMS UNDER ~~§ 3A-503~~ § 3A-504(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE AND § 3A-602(A) OF THIS TITLE TO BE PAID BY THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE TRUST FUND.

(2) THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE THE SURCHARGE NECESSARY TO FUND THE PROGRAMS UNDER ~~§ 3A-503~~ § 3A-504(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE AND § 3A-602(A) OF THIS TITLE AND SHALL, ON 60 DAYS' NOTICE, DIRECT THE AFFECTED TELEPHONE COMPANIES TO ADD THE SURCHARGE TO ALL CURRENT BILLS RENDERED FOR SWITCHED LOCAL EXCHANGE ACCESS SERVICE IN THE STATE.

(E) (1) THE AFFECTED TELEPHONE COMPANIES SHALL ACT AS COLLECTION AGENTS FOR THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE TRUST FUND AND SHALL REMIT ALL PROCEEDS MONTHLY TO THE COMPTROLLER FOR DEPOSIT TO THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE TRUST FUND.

(2) THE TELEPHONE COMPANIES SHALL BE ENTITLED TO CREDIT AGAINST THESE PROCEEDS IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO 1 1/2 PERCENT OF THESE PROCEEDS TO COVER THE EXPENSES OF BILLING, COLLECTING, AND REMITTING THE SURCHARGE AND ANY ADDITIONAL CHARGES.

(F) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADMINISTER THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE TRUST FUND.

(2) THE INCOME DERIVED FROM INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE FUND SHALL ACCRUE TO THE FUND.

(G) (1) THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR SHALL CONDUCT POSTAUDITS OF A FISCAL AND COMPLIANCE NATURE OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE TRUST FUND AND THE EXPENDITURES MADE FOR PURPOSES OF ~~§ 3A-503~~ § 3A-504(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE AND § 3A-602(A) OF THIS TITLE.